

# The Birds of

## The Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park



*Benjamin Barkley*

# Introduction

The Somerset County Park Commission 1,000-acre Lord Stirling Park is located on the western edge of the Great Swamp in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Approximately half of the property is reserved for Lord Stirling Stable and is off-limits to foot traffic. The remainder of the land is devoted to the Environmental Education Center. The Center's 9.5 miles of hiking trails offer excellent birding in a mix of swamp, marsh, deciduous woodland, thicket, and field habitats. This guide focuses on the birds found within the Environmental Education Center property with scattered sightings included from Christmas Bird Counts and sightings from the Stable property. Occurrence data is primarily from the Environmental Education Center grounds and primarily based off eBird (eBird.org) data. The park list includes 220 species. A map of the Environmental Education Center is provided on page three and a map of the Stable on page 4. Further information regarding each species can be found beneath the complete list.

## Seasonal Occurrence

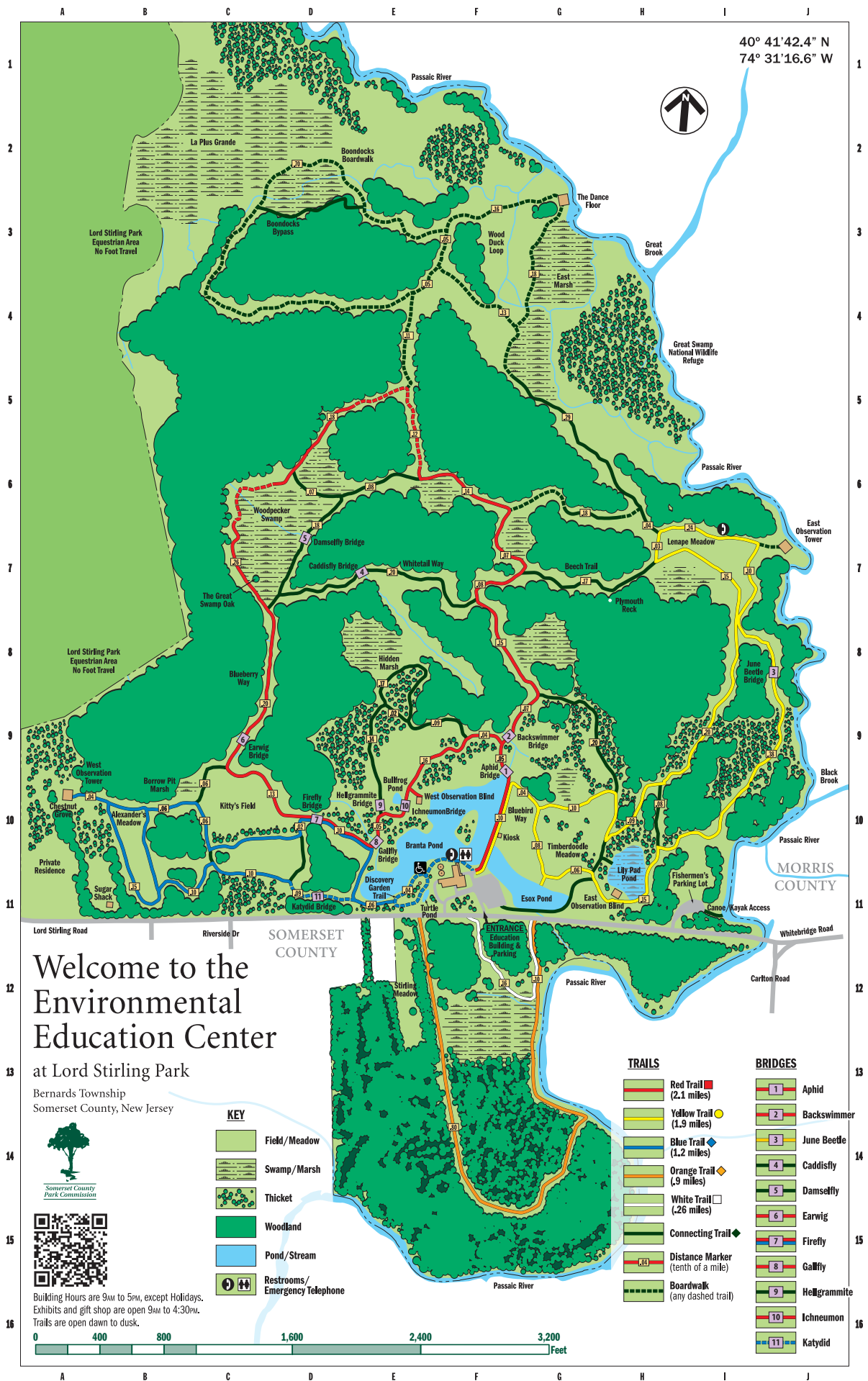
W-Winter	December-February
Sp-Spring	March-May
Su-Summer	June-August
F-Fall	September-November

## Seasonal Abundance

Ab-Abundant	Several individuals expected each visit
C-Common	Should be seen or heard each visit throughout the park
U-Uncommon	Expected in the right habitat, but not certain to be seen or heard
R-Rare	Not seen regularly and for some species, not even annually
O-Occasional	A species found in the park before, but may not occur again
Ac-Accidental	An exceptional record that is unlikely to be seen again
H-Historical	No longer found in the park
(f)	Indicates usually seen only as a flyover migrant
(n)	Seen/heard usually at night ( <b>park trails are closed from dusk to dawn</b> )

**Bolded species names indicate breeding on the Lord Stirling Park property or on the nearby U.S. Fish & Wildlife Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge property.**







# Welcome to Lord Stirling Stable

Bernards Township  
Somerset County, New Jersey

- 1 Main Barn/Office
- 2 Pony Riding Ring
- 3 Indoor Ring/Viewing Area
- 4 Maintenance/Bos Stalls
- 5 Maintenance Shop
- 6 Storage Building
- 7 Dressage Ring
- 8 Large Ring
- 9 Jump Ring
- 10 Pony Pasture
- 11 Moody's Pasture
- 12 Pasture/Outdoor Jump Course
- 13 Pines
- 14 Marsh Hawk Field
- 15 Ora's Meadow
- 16 Renouncing Blocks
- 17 Trailer Parking Lot
- 18 Employee Parking Lot
- 19 Pastures
- 20 Office Annex
- 21 Farm Stand



# Species List

	W	Sp	Su	F
<b><u>Waterfowl (21 species)</u></b>				
Snow Goose(f)	U	R		R
Ross's Goose	O			
Greater White-fronted Goose	O			
Cackling Goose	O			O
<b>Canada Goose</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Brant				R
<b>Mute Swan</b>	R	R		
<b>Wood Duck</b>	U	C	C	C
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>		R		
Northern Shoveler(f)		R		R
Gadwall	R	R		
American Wigeon	R	R		R
<b>Mallard</b>	C	C	C	C
<b>American Black Duck</b>	C	C	R	C
Northern Pintail(f)	R	R		U
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	R	U		R

Ring-necked Duck	R	U		
Bufflehead	R	R		R
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>	C	U	R	R
Common Merganser	U	U		
Ruddy Duck				O

### **Pheasant, Grouse, Turkey (3 species)**

Ring-necked Pheasant				H
Ruffed Grouse		H		
<b>Wild Turkey</b>	U	C	C	U

### **Loon, Grebe, Cormorant (3 species)**

Common Loon(f)		U		U
Pied-billed Grebe	R	R		
Double-crested Cormorant		U		U

### **Hérons (8 species)**

<b>American Bittern</b>		R	R	R
<b>Least Bittern(n)</b>		O	O	
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>	U	C	C	C
Great Egret		C	C	U

Little Blue Heron	O		
<b>Green Heron</b>	U	C	U
Black-crowned Night Heron(f)(n)		R	R
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	R	R	

### **Vultures, Hawks, Eagles (13 species)**

<b>Black Vulture</b>	C	C	C	Ab
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Osprey		C	R	C
Golden Eagle(f)	O			O
Northern Harrier(f)	U	U		C
Sharp-shinned Hawk	U	U		C
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	U	U	U	C
Northern Goshawk(f)				O
Bald Eagle(f)	R	U	O	U
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	U	C	C	C
<b>Broad-winged Hawk(f)</b>		U	R	C
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	C	C	C	C
Rough-legged Hawk(f)	O			

### **Rails, Coot, Crane (5 species)**

<b>King Rail(n)</b>		O		
<b>Virginia Rail(n)</b>		U	U	
<b>Sora(n)</b>		R		
American Coot	O	R		
Sandhill Crane(f)		O		O

### **Shorebirds (12 species)**

Black-bellied Plover(f)(n)		O		
<b>Killdeer</b>	R	C	C	C
Least Sandpiper		R		O
Pectoral Sandpiper(f)(n)				O
Semipalmated Sandpiper				R
Short-billed Dowitcher(f)(n)		O		
<b>American Woodcock</b>	R	Ab	U	R
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>	U	R		R
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>		C	U	
Solitary Sandpiper		C		U
Greater Yellowlegs		U		U
Lesser Yellowlegs		R		R



### **Gulls (3 species)**

Ring-billed Gull	C	U	R	U
Herring Gull(f)	U	R		U
Great Black-backed Gull(f)		R		R

### **Doves (2 species)**

Rock Pigeon	U	U	U	U
Mourning Dove	C	C	C	C

### **Cuckoos (2 species)**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo		C	U	U
Black-billed Cuckoo		U		R

### **Owls (6 species)**

Barn Owl(n)		O		
Eastern Screech-Owl(n)	C	C	C	C
Great Horned Owl(n)	U	U	U	U
Barred Owl(n)	C	C	C	C
Long-eared Owl(n)		O		R
Short-eared Owl(f)	O	O		

### **Nightjars (3 species)**

Eastern Whip-poor-will		O		
Lesser Nighthawk		Ac	Ac	
Common Nighthawk(f)		U	U	U

### **Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher (3 species)**

Chimney Swift(f)		C	Ab	Ab
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		C	Ab	C
Belted Kingfisher	U	U	U	U

### **Woodpeckers (7 species)**

Red-headed Woodpecker	U	U	R	U
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	U	U		U
Downy Woodpecker	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Hairy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C
Northern Flicker	C	C	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U

### **Falcons (3 species)**

<b>American Kestrel(f)</b>	R	U	U
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Merlin(f)	R	R	U
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Peregrine Falcon(f)		R	U
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### **Flycatchers (11 species)**

Olive-sided Flycatcher			R
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<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>	C	Ab	C
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Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	R		R
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<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>	R	O	
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<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>	R	O	
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<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>	C	C	C
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<b>Least Flycatcher</b>	U	U	U
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<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	C	C	C
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<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>	C	C	U
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<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	C	C	U
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Western Kingbird			Ac
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### **Vireos (6 species)**

White-eyed Vireo	U	R	U
Yellow-throated Vireo	C	Ab	U
Blue-headed Vireo	U		U
Philadelphia Vireo			R
Warbling Vireo	C	C	U
Red-eyed Vireo	C	Ab	C

### **Corvids, Lark (5 species)**

Blue Jay	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
American Crow	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Fish Crow	U	U	U	U
Common Raven	U	U	U	U
Horned Lark(f)	R			R

### **Swallows (6 species)**

Northern Rough-winged Swallow	C	C	
Purple Martin	U	C	U
Tree Swallow	C	Ab	C
Bank Swallow	R	U	

<b>Barn Swallow</b>		C	Ab	C
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Cliff Swallow		U		
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### **Chickadee, Titmouse, Nuthatches, Creeper, Wrens (10 species)**

<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
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<b>Tufted Titmouse</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
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Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	R	Ac	U
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<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
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<b>Brown Creeper</b>	U	R	O	U
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<b>House Wren</b>		C	Ab	C
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Winter Wren	U	R		U
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<b>Marsh Wren</b>		U	C	R
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Sedge Wren				Ac
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<b>Carolina Wren</b>	C	C	C	C
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### **Gnatcatcher, Kinglets (3 species)**

<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>		C	C	U
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Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	U		C
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Ruby-crowned Kinglet	O	U		Ab
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### **Thrushes, Mimids (10 species)**

Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	C
Veery		C	C	U
Gray-cheeked Thrush		R		R
Swainson's Thrush		U		U
Hermit Thrush	U	U		U
Wood Thrush		C	C	U
American Robin	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Gray Catbird	R	Ab	Ab	Ab
Brown Thrasher	O	U	U	U
Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	R

### **Starling, Pipit, Waxwings (4 species)**

European Starling	C	C	C	C
American Pipit(f)	R			R
Bohemian Waxwing	Ac			
Cedar Waxwing	U	C	C	C

### **Warblers (34 species)**

Ovenbird		C	Ab	U
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Worm-eating Warbler		R		
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>		U	R	
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>		C	U	U
Golden-winged Warbler				O
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>		C	C	U
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>		C	C	C
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b>		U	U	
Tennessee Warbler		U		U
Orange-crowned Warbler				R
Nashville Warbler	Ac	U		U
Connecticut Warbler				R
Mourning Warbler		R		R
Kentucky Warbler		R	O	
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	O	C	Ab	C
Hooded Warbler		R		
<b>American Redstart</b>		C	C	Ab
Cape May Warbler		U		U
Northern Parula		C		C
Magnolia Warbler		C		C
Bay-breasted Warbler		U		U

Blackburnian Warbler		U		U
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>		C	Ab	U
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>		U		C
Blackpoll Warbler		C		U
Black-throated Blue Warbler		U		U
Palm Warbler		C		C
Pine Warbler		U		U
Yellow-rumped Warbler	U	C		Ab
Yellow-throated Warbler		O		
Prairie Warbler		U	O	U
Black-throated Green Warbler		U		C
Canada Warbler		U		U
Wilson's Warbler		U		R

### **Snow Bunting (1 species)**

Snow Bunting	O			
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### **Sparrows (14 species)**

American Tree Sparrow	C	U		U
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	O	C	C	
<b>Field Sparrow</b>	R	C	C	C

Fox Sparrow	U	R		U
Dark-eyed Junco	Ab	C		Ab
White-crowned Sparrow		R		U
White-throated Sparrow	Ab	C		C
Henslow's Sparrow			H	
Vesper Sparrow		R		O
Savannah Sparrow	O	R		U
<b>Song Sparrow</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
Lincoln's Sparrow		R		U
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>	C	C	C	C
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>	R	C	C	C

### **Chat (1 species)**

Yellow-breasted Chat		R	R	R
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### **Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers (15 species)**

Summer Tanager		O		
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>		C	C	U
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>		C	C	U

Blue Grosbeak(f)(n)				O
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>		U	C	U
Dickcissel(f)				O
<b>Bobolink(f)</b>		R	R	C
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>	O	O	O	
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>		U	U	
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>		C	C	U
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>	C	C	Ab	Ab
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>	R	U	U	U
Rusty Blackbird	R	U		U
<b>Common Grackle</b>	Ab	Ab	C	Ab

### **Finches, House Sparrow (6 species)**

<b>House Finch</b>	C	C	C	C
Purple Finch	R	R		R
Common Redpoll	O			
Pine Siskin	R	R		R
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	C	C	Ab	Ab
<b>House Sparrow</b>	Ab	Ab	Ab	Ab



## **Additional Species Information**

*This information is current as of December 2019.*

### **Waterfowl:**

Snow Goose: Observations span from September to May with most occurring in December or early spring. The high count is an estimate of 2,100 on March 31st, 2018. Typically seen as flyovers (both individuals and large groups), but individuals can occasionally be found on the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field.

Ross's Goose: An individual spent a few weeks on the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field in January 2013.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Several individuals have been reported from the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field. The sightings occurred in December 2003, January 2008, January 2013, January 2014, and March 2014.

Cackling Goose: This species is more common than the previous two geese. There are reports from the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field in October, November, December, and January spanning multiple years.

Canada Goose: One of the park's most common species, it has been recorded in every month of the year. Canada Goose is mainly found on Branta Pond, the Passaic River, and the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field. The reported high count is an estimated 2,450 on December 15, 2016.

Brant: The one record is from the Environmental Education Center parking lot on November 5, 2017.

Mute Swan: Scattered records from February, March, April, May, and June. On February 17, 2017 one spent the day on Esos Pond.



Wood Duck: One of the park's most charismatic species. Recorded in every month, but most common in the late winter and early spring. Often seen along the Passaic River or as a flyover around dusk, sometimes in large groups. A group of 28 (14 drakes and 14 hens) were seen on the ice on Branta Pond on March 15, 2017. The high count is 70 on March 14, 2012. Wood Ducks actively use nesting boxes along the Passaic River.



Blue-winged Teal: Reported from the last week of March to the first week of May with one record in late August. Primarily seen along the Passaic River in the first two weeks of April. One pair was seen on Branta Pond on March 31, 2018. The high count is 18 on March 31, 2018.

Northern Shoveler: One of the rarer ducks for the park and often seen only as an individual or pair flying over. Occasionally can be seen along the Passaic River. Most records are from March with one sighting in October.

Gadwall: Reported in January, March, April, May, and December. Usually seen as a flyover, but can be found along the Passaic River.

American Wigeon: Most likely to be found from early February to mid-April along the Passaic River and observed from the East Observation Tower.

Mallard: Common and reported in every month of the year. Can be seen on Branta Pond, but most often found along the Passaic River or as a flyover, especially around dusk. An estimate of 50 Mallards, 100 American Black Ducks, and 505 Mallard/American Black Ducks were observed as flyovers on March 30, 2019 from 6:30pm-7:10pm.

American Black Duck: Common throughout the year except for July and August. Most common from October to April as a dusk flyover or along the Passaic River. The high count is an estimate of 100 on March 30, 2019.

Northern Pintail: An uncommon species with sporadic sightings from October through April. Most often seen as a flyover. The high count is 20 on February 9, 2019.

Green-winged Teal: Uncommon but regular in the spring along the Passaic River, primarily in March and April. The high count is 26 on March 29, 2019.

Ring-necked Duck: One of the more common ducks, seen on Branta and Esch Ponds in the spring. Frequently seen from the middle of February to the middle of April, with a peak in the third week of March. The high count is 79 on March 29, 2015.



Bufflehead: Uncommon to rare in the park. A pair was seen on Branta Pond on March 18 and 19, 2019. Most sightings are from March and November.

Hooded Merganser: Most reports span from January to July. This species can be seen on Branta Pond, Esch Pond, and Lily Pad Pond. In 2019, a hen was seen consistently flying up and down the Passaic River. She even inspected a nest box near the East Observation Tower, but there was no known breeding.

Common Merganser: This species can be seen on Branta and Esch Ponds. These reports are often of female birds. They can also be spotted as flyovers, most often from December to April. The high count is 54 on December 16, 2016.

Ruddy Duck: One reported individual on October 24, 2016.

## **Pheasant, Grouse, Turkey:**

Ring-necked Pheasant: The historical status in the park has been reported, but is largely unknown.

Ruffed Grouse: One historical record reported from April 1988. The historical status in the park is largely unknown.

Wild Turkey: Reported in every month, but most likely in the spring. The high count is 57 on December 27, 2011.

## **Loon, Grebe, Cormorant:**

Common Loon: An uncommon but regular flyover during migration. Most records are from late March to the middle of May, with additional sightings in September and October. The high count is 13 on April 16, 2018.



Pied-billed Grebe: A regular visitor to Branta Pond in the last two weeks of March and the first week of April. Normally a solo bird, but sometimes a pair is seen. Rarely encountered at other times throughout the year with a few records in December.

Double-crested Cormorant: Most often a flyover, but they have been spotted on Branta Pond. Reported from March to November with a high count of 168 on April 21, 2019.

## **Hérons:**

American Bittern: Recorded most frequently as a nocturnal flight call, but they have been observed in the park. Most notably one was found at Lily Pad Pond on April 20, 2018. Rare from spring to fall, and most likely found in April and May.

Least Bittern: Reported records from July 1983 and another from May 2015. A flyover nocturnal migrant was recorded on May 17, 2019.

Great Blue Heron: Seen throughout the year and throughout the park on the ponds, the Passaic River, and as flyovers.

Great Egret: Records from April to October with a peak in April and May. Most frequently encountered along the Passaic River. The high count is 37 on September 30, 2018.



Little Blue Heron: Reported records from May 2009 and May to June 2013.

Green Heron: Consistently reported from April through September, with a peak in July and August. In the summer, frequently seen as an early morning flyover over the parking lot and around Branta Pond. They can be quite vocal, especially in the summer. The high count is seven on May 2, 2018.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Reports of nocturnal migrants in the spring and the fall, but can sometimes be seen on the shores of Branta Pond. Most notably, one was reliably seen in the first week of April in 2019.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Rare, but can be found along the Passaic River from Fisherman's Parking Lot to the East Observation Tower, mainly in the last week of April and the first week of May.





## **Vultures, Hawks, Eagles:**

Black Vulture: Less common overall than Turkey Vulture, but reported every month. Often observed as flyovers, usually flying higher than Turkey Vultures. Can be seen sitting on the observation blinds or on the roof of the building. A trio spent the day on the railing of the back deck on November 11, 2019.



Turkey Vulture: Encountered in every month, but mainly as flyovers. When perched in the park they are most often on the roofs of the observation blinds.

Osprey: Two distinct peaks in sightings aligned with the species' migration, with records spanning primarily from March to May and August to October. They may stay around Branta and Esch Ponds for multiple days, perching, hunting, and calling above the ponds.



Golden Eagle: Reported record from October 2013 and one immature photographed over the parking lot on December 7, 2018.

Northern Harrier: Usually recorded as a migrant in the spring from March to May and in the fall from August to December. A female type was seen hunting over Timberdoodle Meadow February 17, 2017.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A common sight in migration in the fall, peaking from late September to the end of October. Less common in the spring and absent from the park in the summer. The high count is 26 on April 27, 2014.

Cooper's Hawk: Unlike the Sharp-shinned Hawk, this species has been reported in every month; however, it is less common than Sharp-shinned in the fall. Cooper's also peaks in late September through October.

Northern Goshawk: One individual photographed over the parking lot on November 5, 2016.



Bald Eagle: Recorded in every month except July. Uncommonly lands in the park, but will occasionally perch above Branta Pond. Most likely to be seen as a flyover migrant or perched on dead snags along the Passaic River. The high count is five on April 14, 2018.

Red-shouldered Hawk: A species that becomes very vocal and visible in the spring. Most frequently encountered in March and April, but this species does breed in the park. Also regularly seen as a migrant in the fall. The high count is four on March 25, 2017.

Broad-winged Hawk: Two distinct migration peaks from late April into May and August into early October. On good migration days in September, this species can be seen soaring in large kettles. Infrequently seen perched in the park in the western meadows. The high count is 174 on September 22, 2017.

Red-tailed Hawk: Common and reported every month. Often seen perched throughout the park, but common as a flyover and a migrant as well. The high count is 20 on November 5, 2016.



Rough-legged Hawk: Reported records from January and February 2015.

## **Rails, Coot, Crane:**

King Rail: One reported record from the Boondocks area on May 1, 2011.

Virginia Rail: Reported from April to June primarily from the Boondocks boardwalk. This species can also be heard from the East Observation Tower. The high count is four on April 28, 2018.

Sora: Less common than Virginia Rail, but also recorded between April and June. Most often encountered on the boardwalk trails between the Dance Floor and the Boondocks.



American Coot: Sporadic reports from April, May, November, and December, mainly along the Passaic River. A rare species in the park.

Sandhill Crane: Reported records from April 2010 and photographed on two occasions in April 2018. One additional sighting with a photo in late May of 2019.

## **Shorebirds:**

Black-bellied Plover: A flyover nocturnal migrant was recorded on May 17, 2019.

Killdeer: Consistently reported from February through November with a peak in the spring. Most commonly seen on the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field, but flyovers can be seen and heard over the Environmental Education Center. The high count is 30 on March 11, 2004.

Least Sandpiper: Rare, with reports in spring and fall. Most reports are of nocturnal migrants and vocal flyovers.

Pectoral Sandpiper: One reported nocturnal migrant on September 24, 2016.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Similar to Least Sandpiper, this species is most often recorded as a flyover migrant. During particularly dry spells, this species has been known to occur on the mudflats of Branta and Esch Ponds.

Short-billed Dowitcher: A flyover nocturnal migrant was recorded on May 17, 2019.

American Woodcock: One of the treats of the park. In early spring this species can be heard displaying in the meadows of the park. Timberdoodle Meadow is one of the best places to witness these displays. The peak for this species is from the middle of February to the end of March, but sightings continue into June. They are also detected with regularity again in October and November. The high count is 14 on February 23, 2017.



Wilson's Snipe: A majority of the sightings occur between March and May and again from late September through October. Commonly encountered as a flyover, but birds have been found along the shores of Branta and Esch Ponds. In the spring they have been heard winnowing along the Passaic River. The high count is 12 on April 16, 2019.

Spotted Sandpiper: Common in the spring along the Passaic River and on the floating dock at the northwest corner of Branta Pond. Typically arrive in the last week of April and most sightings conclude by the end of June.

Solitary Sandpiper: The arrival of Solitary Sandpiper is similar to that of Spotted, but one individual in 2019 appeared on the Passaic River on April 3rd. This



species becomes quite common along the Passaic River on logs and exposed mud in late April and early May. More common than Spotted Sandpiper in the fall, with reports from September through the first week of October.

Greater Yellowlegs: The more likely yellowlegs species to be encountered in the park. Seen in April and May with a few sightings in September and October as well. Most commonly seen along the Passaic River on logs and exposed mud patches.



Lesser Yellowlegs: Rarer than Greater Yellowlegs with only a handful of sightings from the Passaic River in April and May and again in September and October.

## **Gulls:**

Ring-billed Gull: Reported primarily from November through May. Often as a flyover, but this species can be found on the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field in large groups. The high count is 153 on February 21, 2018. This is typically the only gull that will land in the park.

Herring Gull: Random and sporadic sightings throughout the year except for the summer. This species is recorded as a flyover.

Great Black-backed Gull: The rarest of the three gulls. Seen as a flyover on two occasions, with the most recent sighting on March 15, 2019.



## **Doves:**

Rock Pigeon: An invasive species, common at the Lord Stirling Stables, but recorded primarily as a flyover at the Environmental Education Center. A majority of the sightings are between March and October, but this species is a year-round resident.

Mourning Dove: Common throughout the entire year and reported every month. The high count is 166 on December 23, 1993.



## **Cuckoos:**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Usually arrives by the second week of May, with a peak in the last two weeks of May. This species breeds in the park, so sightings continue from June into October. Heard frequently throughout the summer.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Less common than Yellow-billed Cuckoo and does not breed in the park. A majority of the sightings are in the spring with a noticeable peak in the third week of May. A few observations from the last week of September as well. Both cuckoos can often be heard as nocturnal migrants in the spring.

## **Owls:**

Barn Owl: One individual heard and recorded on May 1, 2017.

Eastern Screech-Owl: The park's most common owl. Can be found in a variety of habitats including the meadows and the trails along the Passaic River. A year-round resident



with peaks in sightings in the spring and the fall with a noticeable increase in sightings in September and October. The best way to observe owls in the park is to attend our Owl Prowl programs.

Great Horned Owl: A year-round resident. Most often heard calling around dusk. Great Horned is the least numerous owl in the park. The best way to observe owls in the park is to attend our Owl Prowl programs.

Barred Owl: Lord Stirling Park hosts a few breeding pairs of Barred Owl. Most active at night, but can be heard calling in the middle of the afternoon as well. A year-round resident with an uptick in sightings in the spring and early summer. The best way to observe owls in the park is to attend our Owl Prowl programs.

Long-eared Owl: A rare owl in the park and only observed on a couple of occasions. Recorded in March and December.

Short-eared Owl: Individuals reported on March 3, 1988 and as a flyover on February 25, 2017.

### **Nightjars:**

Eastern Whip-poor-will: One individual reported on April 14, 2018.

Lesser Nighthawk: One individual seen on the main dike trail from May 26 to June 2, 2017.

Common Nighthawk: There are two distinct windows during which this species occurs as a migrant. Sightings occur throughout May and into the first week of June and again in late



August and early September. In the last few years a large migration has been noted in the last week of August. The high count is 141 on August 23, 2019. This species is best seen over Branta and Esch Ponds, at the East Observation Tower, and over the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field.

### **Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher:**

Chimney Swift: Consistently seen flying over the park from April through October. The high count is 150 on October 7, 2018.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Hummingbirds arrive in the last week of April or the first week of May. They depart by the first week of October. They are common on the hummingbird feeders throughout the summer, with a peak in late August. They have been seen on nests in a few places in the park.



Belted Kingfisher: Reported every month of the year, but can be sporadic. Often can be observed hunting around Branta and Esch Ponds or more frequently along the Passaic River.

### **Woodpeckers:**

Red-headed Woodpecker: One of the more sought after species in the park. Reports are most numerous from dead snags along the Passaic River, the East Observation Tower, and Woodpecker Swamp. Reports from every month but August with a peak in the fall. This species has attempted to nest here, but the results are unknown. The high count



is 14 on December 13, 2019.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: One of the most common sights and sounds in the park. Reported consistently every month. The high count is 47 on January 4, 2014.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: This species arrives by late September, with a peak in the first two weeks of October. Seen throughout the winter and into the spring. Often seen during our Maple Sugaring programs when the temperature fluctuation causes the sap to flow.

Downy Woodpecker: One of the most common sights and sounds in the park. Reported consistently every month. The high count is 32 on July 3, 2016.

Hairy Woodpecker: Slightly less common than Downy Woodpecker, but still reported every month. The high count is 13 on December 23, 1993.

Northern Flicker: Common throughout the year with peaks during the spring and the fall migration. The high count is 20 on September 30, 2018.

Pileated Woodpecker: Less numerous in the park than other species of woodpeckers, but also reported every month. The high count is six on December 20, 2016.



## **Falcons:**

American Kestrel: This species' occurrence aligns with spring and fall migration, with reports regularly from March through May and again from August through October. The most commonly seen falcon over the park.

Merlin: Less common overall than American Kestrel with fewer migrating over in the spring and the fall. More commonly observed in the winter than American



Kestrel. This species has been known to sit on tall trees and dead snags within the park.

Peregrine Falcon: Only observed as a flyover, primarily in September and October, although it is also recorded infrequently in the spring. All three falcons seem to be the most common in the last week of September and the first week of October.

### **Flycatchers:**

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Recorded as a fall migrant in the last week of August and the first week of September. Both observations of this species are from the western meadows (Kitty's Field and Alexander's Meadow). A migrant was noted interacting with an Eastern Wood-Pewee at the West Observation Tower on September 7, 2019.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One of the most common sounds of the park in the spring and summer. A common migrant and breeder, usually arriving in the second or third week of May and departing by the first week of October. The high count is 16 on July 3, 2016.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: A rare migrant in the park, but sightings are increasing. Most often seen in the last week of August and the first two weeks of September, but it has also been recorded during the last week of May. In the fall this species is most likely to be found in Kitty's Field or Alexander's Meadow. The high count is three on September 1, 2019.



Acadian Flycatcher: A rare species in the park with most records from late May and June, with sightings in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018.

Alder Flycatcher: Recorded only in the last two weeks of May and the first week of June. Look for this species in the meadow behind Bullfrog Pond and in Lenape Meadow. This species may be overlooked in the fall, when silent, as it is difficult to distinguish visually from Willow Flycatcher.

Willow Flycatcher: The most common *Empidonax* flycatcher, arriving in the middle of May and peaking in late May and early June. Willow Flycatchers are common along the Passaic River and in Timberdoodle Meadow. This species departs by the middle of September. The high count is 22 on June 20, 2012.

Least Flycatcher: This species is observed in the park as migrant from late April through May and late August through early October. It is most likely to be seen in the western meadows in the fall.

Eastern Phoebe: A common sight and sound at the Environmental Education Center. This species is one of the first spring migrants to arrive and one of the last fall migrants to leave. The arrival is generally around the first or second week of March and it can be seen into the second week of November. The high count is 14 on March 29, 2019.



Great Crested Flycatcher: 2019 saw the earliest arrival for this species, on April 19th. Great Crested Flycatchers are quite common in the late spring and summer and they depart by the end of September. The high count is 21 on July 3, 2016.

Eastern Kingbird: From the last week of April to the end of September, this species can regularly be seen in the park's meadows and along the Passaic River. Timberdoodle Meadow is one of the best places to find them. The high count is 16 on April 29, 2004.

Western Kingbird: One individual photographed near Timberdoodle Meadow on October 25, 2014.

## **Vireos:**

White-eyed Vireo: Starting in late April, this species is reported through the middle of July. Sightings resume in the fall with a peak in late August and early September. This species is most commonly heard vocalizing in and around Alexander's Meadow and the West Observation Tower.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Very common along the Passaic River in the spring and summer. Difficult to see at times, but very vocal. Sightings are frequent between late April and the end of September. The high count is 12 on June 16, 2019.

Blue-headed Vireo: A regular migrant that arrives early, usually by the middle of April. The peak in the spring is the first week of May. Also commonly encountered in the fall from the middle of September into the third week of October.



Philadelphia Vireo: The most uncommon vireo in the park, but sightings have been increasing with more birding coverage in the fall. This species has only been seen in September, but has been recorded in every week. Look for it in Kitty's Field and Alexander's Meadow.

Warbling Vireo: Similar in appearance to Philadelphia Vireo, but much more common. Commonly heard around Branta Pond and the East Observation Tower. Arriving in mid- to- late April, it will breed in the park and depart by the end of September. The high count is 10 on June 8, 2016.

Red-eyed Vireo: The most abundant vireo in the park, and one of the most commonly heard birds in the summer. This species occurs from late April to early October. The high count is 23 on May 26, 2019.

### **Corvids, Lark:**

Blue Jay: Common throughout the year and reported every month. Blue Jays do migrate, and sizeable flocks can be seen in spring and fall. The high count is 180 on April 24, 2019.



American Crow: The more common of the two crows in the park. Seen throughout the year and reported every month. The high count is an estimate of 100 in March of 2012.

Fish Crow: Most common in winter and spring, largely absent over the summer. Best identified by voice. They often can be observed right by the building. The high count for the park is 268 on March 17, 2018.

Common Raven: A species that is becoming more common. A majority of the observations are from September through November, but it occurs at all times of the year except for July and August. Ravens are heard in the park more often than they are seen.

Horned Lark: Rare in the winter and sightings are limited to the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field. The high count of 40 was observed on December 14, 2010.



## **Swallows:**

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: This species arrives on Branta Pond around the last week of March. These swallows are common throughout the spring and early summer over the ponds and along the Passaic River. They depart by the first week of August. The best time to see swallows in the park is during the spring and the summer around dusk as they hunt over the ponds. The high count is 45 on April 20, 2019.



Purple Martin: Martins arrive by early April and depart by the first week of September. They are most common during the summer, especially around the third week of July. They can be found hunting over the ponds around dusk, in particular. Martin gourdes were installed by Esos Pond in the spring of 2019 to encourage future breeding.

Tree Swallow: One of the two most common swallows in the park, Tree Swallows breed in boxes stationed throughout the park. This is the first swallow to arrive in early March and last to leave by the end of October. They are common over the park's ponds, meadows, and the Passaic River. The high count is an estimate of 100 on April 10, 2019.



Bank Swallow: Less common than other species of swallows. A few records from April and May, with an isolated increase

in sightings in the last two weeks of July.

Barn Swallow: One of the two most common swallows in the park. Arrives later in March than Tree Swallows; nests on the back porch of the building. Common around ponds and the Passaic River. They tend to leave by the second week of September. The high count is an estimate of 50 in August of 2018.



Cliff Swallow: All records are from the second and third week of May. Cliff Swallows are found as flyovers over Branta Pond and the Passaic River.

### **Chickadee, Titmouse, Nuthatches, Creeper, Wrens:**

Black-capped Chickadee: Common throughout the year. The high count is 46 on December 16, 2016.

Tufted Titmouse: Similar in abundance to Black-capped Chickadee. The high count is 81 on December 23, 1993.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: An irruptive species whose abundance varies from year to year. Most often seen in the fall and winter from September to December.



Also recorded less commonly in the spring from March to May. One extraneous report of an audio recorded individual from June 27, 2016.

White-breasted Nuthatch: More common and regular than Red-breasted Nuthatch. Occurs throughout the year in the park. The high count is 31 on January 4, 2014.



Brown Creeper: A regular visitor from the beginning of September to the beginning of May. One extraneous record from August 15, 2015. The high count is 12 from January 4, 2014.



House Wren: An abundant species in the park from the middle of April to the end of October. Found ubiquitously throughout the park. The high count is 34 on July 3, 2016.



Winter Wren: Essentially replaces the House Wren. The Winter Wren arrives in late September and is consistently seen until the end of April. They prefer fallen logs and areas around bodies of water. This species can be heard singing its elaborate song in the spring.

Sedge Wren: A probable individual was seen in Timberdoodle Meadow on October 21, 2016.

Carolina Wren: The most common wren in the park and it occurs all year round with a peak throughout the fall. The high count is 16 on December 14, 2019.



### **Gnatcatcher, Kinglets:**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: An early spring arrival. Usually gnatcatchers arrive by the second week of April and are quite common throughout the summer. Gnatcatchers depart by the end of September. The high count is 41 on April 21, 2019.



Golden-crowned Kinglet: Of the two kinglets, Golden-crowned spends a longer portion of the year in the park. Golden-crowned Kinglets arrive in the last week of September and peak in October. They tend to depart by the last week of April. The high count is an estimate of 40 on October 17, 2017.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Occurs in the park during migration. This kinglet arrives in the spring in late March and departs by early May. Then appears again in the middle of September; it is the more common kinglet species in October. Most depart by the end of November. The high count is 32 on April 22, 2018.





## **Thrushes, Mimids:**

Eastern Bluebird: A common year-round resident. Makes use of the many nesting boxes spread throughout the park. Most common in Timberdoodle Meadow, Lenape Meadow, and Alexander's Meadow. Can also be found on dead snags along the Passaic River. The high count is 45 on September 29, 2016.



Veery: From the last week of April to the end of September, Veeries can be seen and heard along the wooded trails throughout the park. The high count is 19 on July 3, 2016.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: An uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Most often recorded as a nocturnal migrant in the fall, giving their distinctive flight call. They can be found within the park primarily in the third week of May, but sightings span the entire month of May; they can also be found in late September and early October. The high count is five on September 30, 2018.

Swainson's Thrush: Much more common than Gray-cheeked Thrush. Uncommon but regular on the wooded trails in the park in late April and early May, with a pronounced peak in the third week of May. Swainson's Thrush is also one of the most common nocturnal flight calls in the fall, occurring from early September through the middle of October. The high count is 45 on May 17, 2017.



Hermit Thrush: The species of thrush found in the park in winter. They arrive in late September and are most likely to be found in the last few weeks of October. There is another peak in the

spring in late April. An estimated high count of 20 on April 22, 2018.

Wood Thrush: One of the park's backing tracks in the spring and summer. Wood Thrush arrive in the third week of April and have a prolonged peak from May through July. They depart by the last week of September. The high count is 24 on July 3, 2016.

American Robin: Common and ubiquitous as a flyover and within the park. Reported every month and especially abundant in spring and fall. Can often be seen on the front lawn in the spring and as large migratory groups in the fall. The high count is an estimate of 1,100 on October 4, 2016.



Gray Catbird: Possibly the most common bird in the park over the summer. Gray Catbirds have been reported every month except February, but are most abundant from the last two weeks of April to the third week of October. The high count is an estimate of 100 on July 3, 2016.



Brown Thrasher: Reported every month except January and November, this is a common bird of the park's meadows. They begin to sing in early April and sightings continue throughout the spring, summer, and fall with a dip in reports following the first week of October.

Northern Mockingbird: A surprisingly uncommon bird for the Environmental Education Center. Reported in every month, but it is never common.

## **Starling, Pipit, Waxwings:**

European Starling: An invasive species, common and consistently seen throughout the year. The high count is 437 on December 26, 1992.

American Pipit: Reported from the second week of October to the third week of December. Often reported as a flyover, but can be seen on the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field. The high count is 38 on December 15, 2007.

Bohemian Waxwing: One individual was reported on January 25, 2004.

Cedar Waxwing: Seen every month of the year, except February. There is a pronounced peak in sightings from the last two weeks of May to the last week of August. In late May and early June they can often be found feeding on the Mulberries by the back deck and the parking lot. The high count is an estimate of 145 on September 10, 2016.



## **Warblers:**

Ovenbird: One of the first neotropical warblers to return. Ovenbirds arrive in the third week of April and are common in the park through spring and summer. They leave around the second week of October. In summer they can commonly be heard throughout the wooded trails in the park. The high count is 18 on May 17, 2017.



Worm-eating Warbler: One of the less common migrants in the park. A majority of the sightings are from the first week of May, but spring sightings span from the third week of April until the end of May. There is also a record from September. One of the best places to find them is out by the Dance Floor.



Louisiana Waterthrush: Much less common than Northern Waterthrush and difficult to identify. Reports span from the middle of April through May with a few in July. The habitat in the park is more appropriate for Northern Waterthrush, which is a species that breeds in the park.

Northern Waterthrush: The more common waterthrush, which starts arriving in the third week of April and peaks in the first three weeks of May. There are reports of fall migrants in August and September. The best places to find this species are in the swampy areas by Lily Pad Pond and by the Dance Floor and Boondocks.

Golden-winged Warbler: A record of a fall migrant at the West Observation Tower on August 24, 2017. The late August and early September window is likely when this species passes through the park, although the spring records are certainly possible. Both Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers have been recorded in the park. The Brewster's was photographed on May 4, 2015 along the Passaic River. The Lawrence's was seen between Kitty's Field and Alexander's Meadow on September 6, 2019.



Blue-winged Warbler: One of the typical spring and summer warblers at the Environmental Education Center. Common around Timberdoodle Meadow, Lenape Meadow, and Alexander's Meadow as well as Kitty's Field. Blue-wingeds arrive in the last week of April and prominently peak from early May to early June. The last Blue-wingeds depart by the end of September. The high count is 10 in May 7, 2018.



Black-and-white Warbler: Arrives in the third week of April and remains through summer and into the third week of October. One of the more common warbler species in the park. The high count is 14 on May 4, 2019.



Prothonotary Warbler: An Environmental Education Center speciality whose abundance varies from year to year. Reports from the third week of April to the second week of July. This species has nested in shorter dead snags along the Passaic River. A female bird was seen visiting a nesting box at the West Observation Blind in late May and early June of 2017. The Prothonotary Warbler had a fantastic year in 2019 with at least four males present along the Passaic River ranging from Lord Stirling Road to beyond the East Observation Tower. At least five individual birds were found in the spring of 2019 (four males on territory and one female). One male south of the East Observation Tower was observed with a female and they are believed to have nested. The male to the north of the East Observation Tower guarded a dummy nest hole for several weeks before going silent. It is unknown if this individual successfully mated. This species is not regular along the Passaic River every year, with only one sighting in 2018, but they have been recorded at the park every year since 2009. The high count is five on July 13, 2011.

Tennessee Warbler: An unprecedented number of Tennessee Warblers visited Lord Stirling Park during migration in 2019. In spring this species is only recorded in the month of May with a peak in the third week. Tennessee is one of the later arrivals. This species of warbler is more commonly detected in the fall with sightings ranging from late August into the third week of October. The high count is 10 on May 19, 2019.



Orange-crowned Warbler: The only records of Orange-crowned Warbler are in the fall during the last two weeks of October. The records are from Timberdoodle Meadow and the meadow behind Bullfrog Pond.

Nashville Warbler: Found in the park from late April to the third week of May and again from the first week of September to the first week of October. Remarkably one was seen on the Christmas Bird Count on December 16, 2016.



Connecticut Warbler: A rare fall migrant. This species has been seen in the last week of September and the first week of October. Connecticut Warblers have been found in the western meadows, in patches of goldenrod, along the center path of Kitty's Field and on the western edge of Alexander's Meadow.

Mourning Warbler: A species recorded in both the spring and summer. In the spring, wet wooded trails are the best place to search, with sightings spanning from the third week of May to the first week of June. This is one of the latest spring arrivals. Sightings in the fall are increasing with more coverage, with

Mourning Warblers being reported in the western meadows of the park between the last week of August and the first two weeks of September. A later individual was found in Kitty's Field on September 25, 2019.

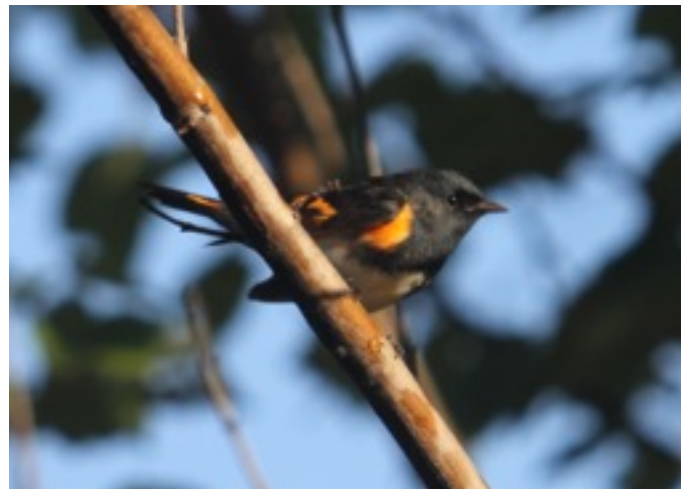
Kentucky Warbler: Very rare in the park with sightings in the first and last week of May and one sighting in late August of 2013.

Common Yellowthroat: A common sight and sound in the park from the spring through late fall. Yellowthroats arrive in the third week of April and have been reported as late as December. However, most reports cease by the end of October. This is one of the more common breeding warblers in the park. The high count is an estimate of 50 in May 2019.



Hooded Warbler: Hooded Warblers are only reported in the spring, with reports spanning the last week of April to the first week of June. One of the more uncommon warblers in the park.

American Redstart: A common warbler, especially in the fall when, for many weeks, it is the dominant species of warbler passing through the park. Redstarts arrive by the third week of April and are reported through the first week of October with notable peaks in the first three weeks of May and again from the middle of August through September. The high count is 48 on September 2, 2016.





Cape May Warbler: The spring of 2018 was a banner year for Cape May Warblers at Lord Stirling Park, with eye-level birds consistently seen at the East Observation Tower during the first week of May. This species is an uncommon but regular migrant in the spring and is more commonly encountered around evergreen trees in the fall. Cape May Warblers are most common in the first week of May, but are reported throughout the month. In the fall they occur from the first week of September to the first week of October. The high count is eight on September 30, 2019.



Northern Parula: A common warbler in both spring and fall migration. In spring, this warbler arrives in the last week of April, with a peak in the first week of May. They depart by the end of May. In fall, they are reported from the middle of August to early October with a notable peak in the third week of September. During that week and later into September, Northern Parulas replace American Redstarts as the most common warbler. The high count is 14 on September 21, 2019.



Magnolia Warbler: Peaking in the third week of May, this species occurs throughout the month during spring migration. In the fall, Magnolia Warblers



are present for longer, spanning from the last week of August to the third week of October. They peak in the last two weeks of September. The high count is 12 on September 15, 2016.

Bay-breasted Warbler: The spring of 2019 was a banner year for the Bay-breasted Warbler, with up to eight being seen in one morning. This species is a less common spring migrant with a slight peak in the third week of May. In the fall they are a bit more regular, with sightings beginning the last week of August and continuing to the first week of October, peaking in the second week of September. The high count is eight on May 17, 2019.

Blackburnian Warbler: Blackburnian sightings start in the last week of April, but are most common in the first and third week of May. They return starting the third week of August, but are mostly found in the second week of September. Sightings cease by the first week of October. The high count is eight on September 1, 2017.



Yellow Warbler: Yellow Warblers arrive in force starting the second week of April and are common throughout spring and summer, especially along the Passaic River and out on the Boondocks boardwalk. This species is present until the last week of September. The high count is 52 on July 3, 2016.



Chestnut-sided Warbler: An uncommon spring migrant, with sightings beginning and peaking in the first two weeks of May. Sightings continue through May and then resume in the fall in middle to late August. This species is a common fall migrant throughout the month of September and into the first week of October. The high count is ten on May 4, 2014.



Blackpoll Warbler: Blackpoll Warblers are regularly encountered in the park in both the spring and the fall. The spring peak is in the third week of May, but sightings occur throughout the month. In the fall, sightings occur from the second week of September, with an individual being reported as late as November 11th in 2018. The high count is 31 on May 26, 2019.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: This species arrives in the last week of April and peaks in the first week of May with sightings concluding by the last week of May. By the first week of September they return and are seen through the third week of October, with an increase in sightings during the first week of October.

Palm Warbler: A warbler of early spring and late fall. These warblers are some of the first to arrive, with sightings beginning the last week of March and stretching into the third week of May with an exaggerated peak in the last three weeks of April. In the fall, they return by the third week of September and most significantly are present through the first three weeks of October. They depart by the middle of November. The high



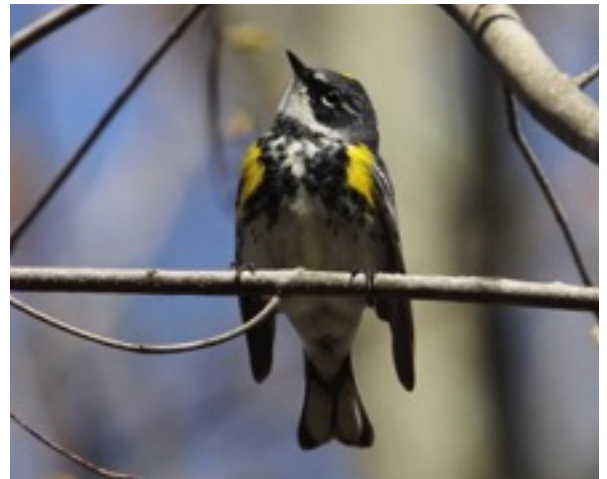


count is 45 on April 23, 2018.

Pine Warbler: Another early arrival, with a report from March 7, 1994. The middle two weeks of April are the best time to see this species, with records typically ending by the second week of May. Sightings resume around late August and early September, with a small peak in late September and then again in the third week of October when they depart for good.



Yellow-rumped Warbler: This species of warbler is present throughout the winter with a prolonged peak between the second week of April to the second week of May. It returns by the last two weeks of September and becomes one of the most common warblers throughout most of October. Sightings continue through the winter. The high count is 350 on April 27, 2013.



Yellow-throated Warbler: A rare visitor to the park. All sightings are in the last two weeks of April with records in 2004, 2014, 2017, and 2018. Most records are from the trails along the Passaic River. On April 22, 2018 a remarkably rare Yellow-rumped and Yellow-throated Warbler hybrid was photographed at the Environmental Education Center.

Prairie Warbler: Reported in every month from late April to the second week of October, but considerably rarer in June and July. Most sightings end by the third week of May and resume in the last week of August, with a slight peak in observations in the first week of May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: A regular migrant in both spring and fall. Like many species of warblers, they arrive in the last week of April with a longer peak stretching the first three weeks of May. In the fall, they become more regular with records from late August to the third week of October. The peak is in the second and last week of September. The high count is 13 on September 1, 2017.



Canada Warbler: A skulking species of warbler that can be hard to detect, Canada Warblers occur during the month of May with an increase in sightings in the third week of May. In fall, they are most regularly found from the last week of August to the second week of September. Sightings do continue to the end of September. Areas around Lenape Meadow and the Dance Floor are the best places to search for this species.

Wilson's Warbler: One of the more uncommon species of warbler in the park, Wilson's Warblers occur from the second week of May to the end of May. They are even less common in the fall with only a handful of sightings from the last two weeks of September. There is an extraneous report of two birds from August 8, 2014 along the Passaic River.

### **Snow Bunting:**

Snow Bunting: An individual was seen in the winter of 2008 on the Lord Stirling Road Equestrian Field.



## **Sparrows:**

American Tree Sparrow: A winter speciality in the park, American Tree Sparrows usually arrive around late October and early November. They are present in the park throughout the winter until the second week of April. The high count is 110 on December 26, 1992.



Chipping Sparrow: One of the first spring arrivals, Chipping Sparrows are first seen around the last week of March. This is a common and ubiquitous species throughout spring, summer, and fall until the last week of October. There is a record from December 18, 2017. The high count is 35 on September 29, 2016.

Field Sparrow: A year-round resident, this species is more common from April to October than in winter. The bouncy-ball song is a common sound across the park's meadows, especially as the calendar turns to spring. The high count is 13 on December 14, 2019.



Fox Sparrow: A winter species that departs by the third week of April. The peak is from early February to early April. This species will regularly visit the park feeders. It can also be heard singing, particularly in March and April. In fall, Fox Sparrows typically arrive by the third week of October. The estimated high count is 40 on November 15, 2012.



Dark-eyed Junco: The standard snowbird, Dark-eyed Juncos occur in the park throughout winter, departing at the end of April. There is one reported record from June 22, 1997. Juncos return to the park around the first week of October. The high count is 181 on December 15, 1990.

White-crowned Sparrow: A migrant species that is more common in fall than in spring. Reports in spring are primarily in the last week of April and the first two weeks of May. In fall, White-crowns can be found from the last week of September to the second week of November.



White-throated Sparrow: One of the most common sparrows in the park in fall, winter, and spring. The White-throated Sparrow is common to abundant into early May, with sightings continuing until the end of May. This species returns by the end of September. The high count is 352 on December 14, 2019.

Henslow's Sparrow: The historical status in the park has been reported, but is largely unknown.

Vesper Sparrow: A rarely reported migrant. There are records from the second and third weeks of April and the first week of October.

Savannah Sparrow: Savannah Sparrows are more regular in migration from late March through late May and again from the middle of September to the middle of November. There are also reports from December and January. The high count is ten on October 23, 2019.

Song Sparrow: Likely the most common sparrow in the park. A year-round resident with a high count of 78 on December 14, 2019.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Sightings of Lincoln's Sparrow are increasing in fall with reports from the final two weeks of September to the end of October. In spring, they are less likely but have been observed in the last three weeks of May. The best spots to look for this species are Kitty's Field and Alexander's Meadow.

Swamp Sparrow: A common breeder in the park along the Passaic River and in and around the Boondocks trails. The largest peak in sightings occurs throughout the month of October when it becomes quite common. This species does occur in the park year-round. The high count is 56 on October 14, 2016.



Eastern Towhee: Towhees occur in the park year-round, but are noticeable more common from March to November. This species has been reported every month. The high count is 16 on April 21, 2019.



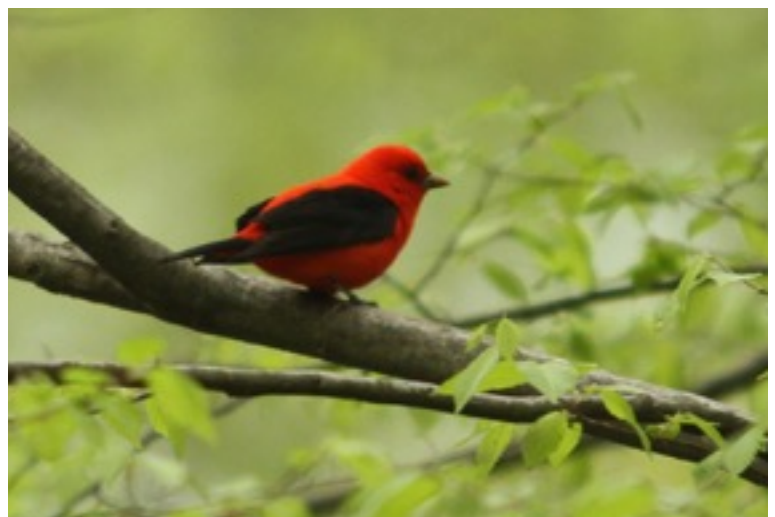
### **Chat:**

Yellow-breasted Chat: From 2014 to 2016 this species was regularly seen in the last two weeks of May and into the third week June behind Bullfrog Pond, but sightings have become much less frequent. The only recent sightings are from the last week of September in 2017 and the first week of October in 2018.

### **Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers:**

Summer Tanager: A pair was seen at Lenape Meadow from May 26 to June 21 in 2014.

Scarlet Tanager: The much more common species of tanager. The third week of April is the earliest this species arrives in the park with a noted increase during the first three weeks of May. In fall, it departs by the first week of October. It is a common breeder, especially on the wooded trails surrounding Woodpecker Swamp and along the northern boardwalk trails. The high count is ten on May 17, 2017.





Northern Cardinal: A common year-round species. Cardinals are seen in every month. The high count is 33 on December 14, 2019.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: This species of grosbeak arrives in the last week of April and becomes common throughout the month of May and into summer. It breeds in the park. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks depart by the first week of October. The high count is 14 on May 23, 2015.



Blue Grosbeak: An individual reported in May 1991 and June 2015. Another reported as a nocturnal migrant on September 24, 2016.

Indigo Bunting: The first week of May signals the arrival of Indigo Buntings; they are most commonly found in Alexander's Meadow. Indigo Buntings breed in the park and are commonly seen until the first week of October. The high count is six on September 16, 2016.

Dickcissel: Individuals heard as diurnal migrants on September 15, 2016 and September 9, 2017.

Bobolink: This species occurs as a vocal flyover over the park both during the day and as a nocturnal migrant. They can be heard and seen flying over throughout the month of May, but are more common from the second week of August to the first week of October. The flyover flocks can be large and the high count is an estimated 95 on September 10, 2016.

Eastern Meadowlark: An extremely rare species in the park, with the most recent record in 2004. There are reports from late March, early April, late June, the middle of October, and early December.

Orchard Oriole: A regular oriole around Timberdoodle Meadow, Branta Pond, and Esos Pond in spring and summer. They tend to arrive in the third week of April and sightings conclude, following the breeding season, by the end of July.

Baltimore Oriole: The more common of the two oriole species. Baltimore Orioles arrive in the final week of April and are common in the spring and as breeders in the summer. This species of oriole is seen into fall and is the only oriole reported August through September. The high count is 19 on May 20, 2017.



Red-winged Blackbird: Common, vocal, and widespread in the park. Red-winged Blackbirds have been reported every month, but are seen with increased regularity from February through July and again in the final two weeks of October into November. The high count is an estimated 600 on November 10, 2019.

Brown-headed Cowbird: This species has been reported in every month except August. There is a pronounced peak in sightings in April and May. The high count is an estimated 50 on April 19, 2019.

Rusty Blackbird: A park speciality. Rusty Blackbirds have significantly declined in the last few decades, but large flocks can still be seen along the Passaic River and in and around the Dance Floor and the Boondocks trails. Rusty Blackbirds depart in spring around the first week of May. The spring peak occurs the first two weeks of April. They return in the first week of October with an increase in



sightings in the final two weeks of October. The high count is an estimated 140 on October 25, 2008.

Common Grackle: Common and can form enormous flocks, especially in early spring and late fall. There are sightings every month of the year. The high count is an estimated 10,000 on February 25, 2016. Flocks numbering approximately 3,000 birds have been seen in early to mid November as well.

### **Finches and House Sparrow:**

House Finch: An invasive species from the western United States, House Finches are reported in every month and are most commonly found in the trees surrounding the building. The high count is 137 on December 26, 1992. Much more common than Purple Finch.



Purple Finch: An irruptive species whose numbers vary from year to year. When present, Purple Finches are most common in the fall. They can be found from the middle of September through December. There are reports from January and February, but sightings increase in the spring from the last week of March to the first week of May. The high count is 16 on April 26, 2015.

Common Redpoll: Five individuals recorded on January 19, 2013 and one single bird on December 14, 2018.

Pine Siskin: Another irruptive finch species that is more common in particular years. Most reports are from the second week of October to the second week of December. There are reports in spring from the last week of March and the final two weeks of April.

American Goldfinch: A common finch throughout the park. A bit more common during spring, summer, and fall, but this species occurs in the park year-round. They can often be seen feeding on Purple Coneflower in the front gardens of the



building. A common feeder visitor as well. The high count is 70 on April 21, 2019.

House Sparrow: This common and noisy sparrow is mostly encountered around the building. A year-round introduced species, the House Sparrow is hard to miss. The high count is 273 on December 26, 1992.

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